

What is claimed is:

1. A method for managing information, the method comprising:

storing object data of more than one type in a common format;

storing a specific format for each type of object data;

storing a plurality of filters; and

converting the object data between the common general format stored in the object management unit and the specific format for retrieval utilizing a respective one of the filters stored in the filter management unit, wherein the object data has filter identifiers and each filter identifier respectively specifies a corresponding one of the filters.

2. An information management system comprising:

an object management unit configured to store object data of more than one type in a common format;

a format management unit configured to store a specific format for each type of object data;

a filter management unit configured to store a plurality of filters; and

a data management control unit configured to convert the object data between the common general format stored in the object management unit and the specific format for retrieval utilizing a respective one of the filters stored in the filter managing unit, wherein the object data has filter identifiers and each filter identifier respectively specifies a corresponding one of the filters.

3. A search method for using a database, the method comprising organizing a plurality of data elements within the database such that the data is locatable without a separate index.

4. The method as recited in claim 3, further comprising performing either an absolute search or a probability search.

5. The method as recited in claim 3, wherein query keys do not have to be provided in any fixed sequence in order to get the same results.

6. The method as recited in claim 3, further comprising storing an element of data in a linearized structure.

7. The method as recited in claim 3, further comprising linking a plurality of data elements within the database to one another.

8. The method as recited in claim 3, further comprising automatically linking a plurality of explicitly related data elements within the database to one another.

9. The method as recited in claim 3, further comprising manually linking a plurality of implicitly related data elements within the database to one another.

10. The method as recited in claim 3, further comprising:

adding at least one data element to the database; and

wherein no predefined field for the data element exists at the time that the data element is added.

11. The method as recited in claim 3, further comprising:

adding at least one data element to the database;

wherein no predefined field for the data element exists at the time that the data element is added; and

wherein the added data element is organized within the database in a manner which facilitates subsequent location and retrieval of the added data element without the use of a separate index.

12. The method as recited in claim 3, further comprising:

adding at least one data element to the database;

linking the added data element to at least one other data element within the database;

wherein no predefined field for the data element exists at the time that the data element is added; and

wherein the added data element is organized within the database in a manner which facilitates subsequent location and retrieval of the added data element without the use of a separate index.

13. The method as recited in claim 3, further comprising:

adding at least one data element to the database;

automatically linking the added data element of at least one explicitly related data element within the database;

wherein no predefined field for the data element exists at the time that the data element is added; and

wherein the added data element is organized within the database in a manner which facilitates subsequent location and retrieval of the added data element without the use of a separate index.

14. The method as recited in claim 3, further comprising:

adding at least one data element to the database;

manually linking the added data element to at least one implicitly related data element within the database;

wherein no predefined field for the data element exists at the time that the data element is added; and

wherein the added data element is organized within the database in a manner which facilitates subsequent location and retrieval of the added data element without the use of a separate index.
15. The method as recited in claim 3, further comprising:

linking a plurality of data elements within the database to one another; and

wherein such linking is facilitate by assigning a common number to linked data elements.
16. The method as recited in claim 3, wherein the data elements are not erased from the database.
17. The method as recited in claim 3, wherein the data elements are not erased from the database until a explicit command to do so is issued.
18. The method as recited in claim 3, wherein the data elements comprise objects.
19. The method as recited in claim 3, wherein the data elements comprise object data of more than one kind.
20. The method as recited in claim 3, wherein the data elements comprise object data of more than one kind stored in a common format regardless of the kind of the object data.

21. The method as recited in claim 3, further comprising storing information representative of the kind of object data in the database.

22. The method as recited in claim 3, further comprising converting object data from a native format into a common format for storage in the database.

23. The method as recited in claim 3, further comprising converting object data stored within the database from a common format into a format suitable for use of the object data by an application.

24. The method as recited in claim 3, further comprising converting object data stored within the database from a common format into a native format of the object data.

25. The method as recited in claim 3, further comprising:

converting object data stored within the database from a common format into a native format of the object data; and

wherein the object data stored within the database is converted from the common format into the native format via a filter selected from a plurality of filter via a filter identified associated with the object data.

26. A data structure for use in a database, the data structure comprising a plurality of data elements organized within the database such that the data is locatable without a separate index.

27. The data structure as recited in claim 26, wherein a plurality of data elements within the database are linked to one another.

28. The data structure as recited in claim 26, wherein a plurality of explicitly related data elements within the database are automatically linked to one another.

29. The data structure as recited in claim 26, wherein a plurality of implicitly related data elements within the database are manually linked to one another.

30. The data structure as recited in claim 26, wherein:
- adding at least one data element to the database; and
- wherein no predefined field for the data element exists at the time that the data element is added.
31. The data structure as recited in claim 26, further comprising:
- at least one data element has been added to the database;
- wherein no predefined field for the data element exists at the time that the data element is added; and
- wherein the added data element is organized within the database in a manner which facilitates subsequent location and retrieval of the added data element without the use of a separate index.
32. The data structure as recited in claim 26, wherein:
- at least one data element has been added to the database;
- the added data element is linked to at least one other data element within the database;
- wherein no predefined field for the data element existed at the time that the data element was added; and
- wherein the added data element is organized within the database in a manner which facilitates subsequent location and retrieval of the added data element without the use of a separate index.

33. The data structure as recited in claim 26, wherein:

at least one data element has been added to the database;

the added data element has been linked to at least one explicitly related data element within the database;

wherein no predefined field for the data element existed at the time that the data element was added; and

wherein the added data element is organized within the database in a manner which facilitates subsequent location and retrieval of the added data element without the use of a separate index.

34. The data structure as recited in claim 26, wherein:

at least one data element has been added to the database;

the added data element the data element has been linked to at least one implicitly related data element within the database;

wherein no predefined field for the data element existed at the time that the data element was added; and

wherein the added data element is organized within the database in a manner which facilitates subsequent location and retrieval of the added data element without the use of a separate index.

35. The data structure as recited in claim 26, wherein:

a plurality of data elements within the database are linked to one another; and

wherein such linking is facilitate by assigning a common number to linked data elements.

36. The data structure as recited in claim 26, wherein the data elements are not erased from the database.

37. The data structure as recited in claim 26, wherein the data elements are not erased from the database until a explicit command to do so is issued.

38. The data structure as recited in claim 26, wherein the data elements comprise objects.

39. The data structure as recited in claim 26, wherein the data elements comprise object data of more than one kind.

40. The data structure as recited in claim 26, wherein the data elements comprise object data of more than one kind stored in a common format regardless of the kind of the object data.

41. The data structure as recited in claim 26, wherein information representative of the kind of object data is stored in the database.

42. The data structure as recited in claim 26, wherein object data is converted from a native format into a common format for storage in the database.

43. The data structure as recited in claim 26, wherein object data stored within the database is converted from a common format into a format suitable for use of the object data by an application.

44. The data structure as recited in claim 26, where object data stored within the database is converted from a common format into a native format of the object data.

45. The data structure as recited in claim 26, wherein:

object data stored within the database is converted from a common format into a native format of the object data; and

wherein the object data stored within the database is converted from the common format into the native format via a filter selected from a plurality of filter via a filter identified associated with the object data.

46. An information management system comprising:

an organizer configured to organize a plurality of data elements within the database such that the data is locatable without a separate index;

a locator configured to locate a desired data element in response to a query; and

retrieving the located data element.

47. The information management system as recited in claim 46, further comprising a linker configured to link a plurality of data elements within the database to one another.

48. The information management system as recited in claim 46, further comprising an automatic linker configured to automatically link a plurality of explicitly related data elements within the database to one another.

49. The information management system as recited in claim 46, further comprising a manual linker configured to manually linking a plurality of implicitly related data elements within the database to one another.

50. The information management system as recited in claim 46, further comprising:

an input device configured to add at least one data element to the database; and

wherein no predefined field for the data element exists at the time that the data element is added.

51. The information management system as recited in claim 46, further comprising:

an input device configured to add at least one data element to the database;

wherein no predefined field for the data element exists at the time that the data element is added; and

wherein the added data element is organized within the database in a manner which facilitates subsequent location and retrieval of the added data element without the use of a separate index.

52. The information management system as recited in claim 46, further comprising:

an input device configured to add at least one data element to the database;

linking the added data element to at least one other data element within the database;

wherein no predefined field for the data element exists at the time that the data element is added; and

wherein the added data element is organized within the database in a manner which facilitates subsequent location and retrieval of the added data element without the use of a separate index.

53. The information management system as recited in claim 46, further comprising:

an input device configured to add at least one data element to the database;

an automatic linker configured to automatically link the added data element of at least one explicitly related data element within the database;

wherein no predefined field for the data element exists at the time that the data element is added; and

wherein the added data element is organized within the database in a manner which facilitates subsequent location and retrieval of the added data element without the use of a separate index.

54. The information management system as recited in claim 46, further comprising:

an input device configured to add at least one data element to the database;

a manual linker configured to manually link the added data element to at least one implicitly related data element within the database;

wherein no predefined field for the data element exists at the time that the data element is added; and

wherein the added data element is organized within the database in a manner which facilitates subsequent location and retrieval of the added data element without the use of a separate index.

55. The information management system as recited in claim 46, further comprising:

a linker configured to link a plurality of data elements within the database to one another; and

wherein such linking is facilitated by assigning a common number to linked data elements.

56. The information management system as recited in claim 46, wherein the data elements are not erased from the database.

57. The information management system as recited in claim 46, wherein the data elements are not erased from the database until a explicit command to do so is issued.

58. The information management system as recited in claim 46, wherein the data elements comprise objects.

59. The information management system as recited in claim 46, wherein the data elements comprise object data of more than one kind.

60. The information management system as recited in claim 46, wherein the data elements comprise object data of more than one kind stored in a common format regardless of the kind of the object data.

61. The information management system as recited in claim 46, further comprising a memory configured to store information representative of the kind of object data in the database.

62. The information management system as recited in claim 46, further comprising a format converter configured to convert object data from a native format into a common format for storage in the database.

63. The information management system as recited in claim 46, further comprising a format converter configured to convert object data stored within the database from a common format into a format suitable for use of the object data by an application.

64. The information management system as recited in claim 46, further comprising a format converter configured to convert object data stored within the database from a common format into a native format of the object data.

65. The information management system as recited in claim 46, further comprising:

a format converter configured to convert object data stored within the database from a common format into a native format of the object data; and

wherein the object data stored within the database is converted from the common format into the native format via a filter selected from a plurality of filter via a filter identified associated with the object data.